

What is claimed:

1. An oxidizing agent supply system failure determination method for a fuel cell for use with a fuel cell apparatus provided with a fuel cell that is supplied with a fuel
5 and an oxidizing agent, and an oxidizing agent supply system that has an oxidizing agent condition adjusting means that adjusts condition of the oxidizing agent supplied to said fuel cell, comprising the step of:

determining that said oxidizing agent supply system has failed if an absolute value of a difference between an actual value of a supply provided by said oxidizing agent
10 condition adjusting means and a first predetermined value that is compared to said actual value is equal to or greater than a second predetermined value and a predetermined period of time has passed.

2. An oxidizing agent supply system failure determination method for a fuel
15 cell according to claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent condition adjusting means comprises a flow rate adjusting means that adjusts a flow rate of the oxidizing agent supplied to said fuel cell, and wherein said actual value is an actual flow rate of the oxidizing agent which said flow rate adjustment means supplies, and said first predetermined value is a command value sent to said flow rate adjusting means.

20 3. An oxidizing agent supply system failure determination method for a fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent condition adjusting means comprises a pressure adjusting means that adjusts pressure of the oxidizing agent supplied to said fuel cell, and wherein said actual value is an actual pressure of the oxidizing agent

which said pressure adjusting means supplies, and said first predetermined value is a command value sent to said pressure adjusting means.

4. An oxidizing agent supply system failure determination method for a fuel
5 cell according to claim 1, wherein said fuel cell apparatus further comprises a cooling
system that cools said fuel cell, and wherein said oxidizing agent condition adjusting
means comprises a flow rate adjusting means that adjusts a flow rate of the oxidizing
agent supplied to said fuel cell, wherein said actual value is an actual flow rate of the
oxidizing agent which said flow rate adjusting means supplies, and said first
10 predetermined value is a pressure of a cooling medium supplied to said cooling system,
and wherein it is determined that said oxidizing agent supply system has failed if a state in
which a generated current of said fuel cell is equal to or less than a predetermined value
and the absolute value of a difference between said actual flow rate and a pressure of said
cooling medium is equal to or greater than said second predetermined value has passed a
15 predetermined period of time.